

Other Immigrant Visa Categories

Many immigrants receive visas in the family or employment based visa categories; however there are other immigrant visa categories. A U.S. citizen can also petition for the immigration of a foreign fiancé(e) to be married in the United States, or an orphan adopted abroad/to be adopted in the United States. The United States also conducts an annual program for Diversity Visas, commonly known as the Visa Lottery. Visit <http://www.travel.state.gov> to learn more about these categories.

Players in the Immigrant Visa Process

Beneficiary: An applicant for a visa as named in a petition filed with USCIS.

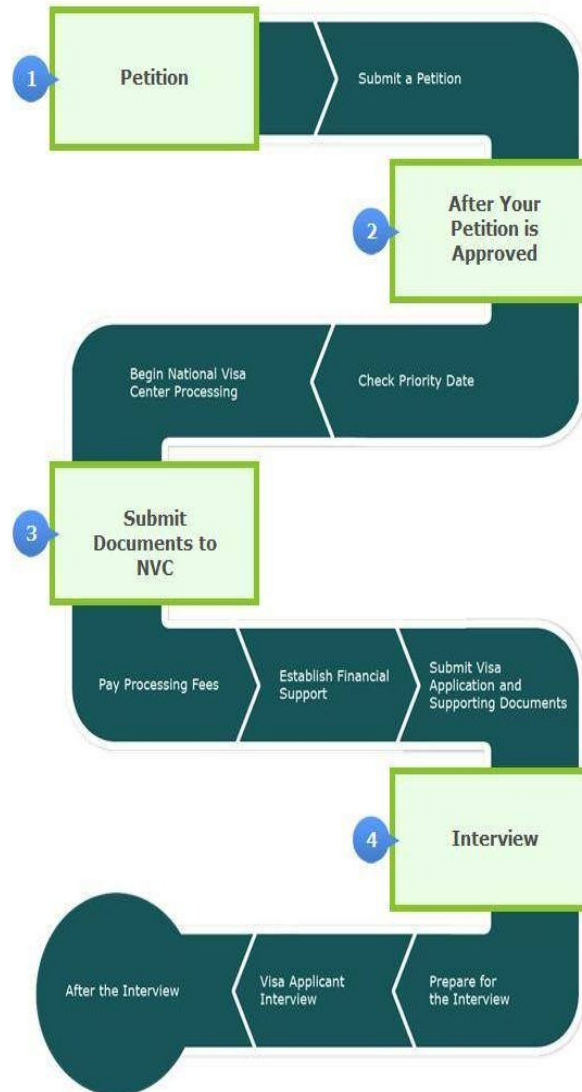
Petitioner: A U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family member or employer (or the employer's agent) who files a family-based or employment-based immigrant visa petition with USCIS.

Sponsor: 1) A person who fills out and submits an immigration visa petition. Another name for sponsor is petitioner, OR 2) a person who completes an Affidavit of Support (I-864) for an immigrant visa applicant.

Agent: A person who the applicant selects to receive all correspondence regarding the case and to pay the immigrant visa application processing fee. The agent can be the applicant, the petitioner or another person selected by the applicant. Form DS-261 must be used to submit the name of the agent.

Attorney of Record: An attorney or representative appointed by the petitioner, applicant or beneficiary to receive correspondence and documentation relating to the visa petition or application. The Attorney must submit Form G-28.

The Immigrant Visa Process for Family-Based Petitions



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The Immigrant Visa Process



U.S. Embassy
Georgetown
Guyana

The Immigrant Visa Process

Guyanese citizens who want to live permanently in the United States must first obtain an immigrant visa. This is the first step to becoming a lawful permanent resident.

To be eligible to apply for an immigrant visa, a Guyanese citizen must be sponsored by a U.S. citizen relative, U.S. lawful permanent resident, or a prospective employer, with a few exceptions. The sponsor begins the immigration process by filing a petition on the foreign citizen's behalf with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Immigration Based on Family

A U.S. citizen can file an immigrant visa petition for a:

- Spouse
- Son or daughter
- Parent
- Brother or sister

A U.S. lawful permanent resident (that is, a green-card holder) can file an immigrant visa petition for a:

- Spouse
- Unmarried son or daughter

For Family Based Immigration, the sponsor must file the **I-130 petition** with USCIS. Visit <http://uscis.gov> for more information.

Employment-Based Immigration

A U.S. employer can sponsor certain skilled workers who will be hired for permanent jobs. In some specialized fields, U.S. law allows prospective immigrants to sponsor themselves. In addition, U.S. law provides a number of special immigrant categories, as well as an immigrant investor program. Visit <http://travel.state.gov> to learn more.

To begin the immigration process, your sponsoring employer must file an **I-140 Petition** for an Alien Worker with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). In some categories, you can file the I-140 petition yourself.

Numerical Limitations for Some Visa Categories

Regarding some of the immigrant visa categories, United States law limits the number of visas available each year. In these limited categories, whenever the number of qualified applicants exceeds the available immigrant visas, there will be a waiting list. In this situation, the available immigrant visas will be issued in the chronological order in which the petitions were filed. The date your petition was filed is

called your priority date. Check the **Visa**

Bulletin at: <http://www.travel.state.gov> for the latest priority dates. The table below shows which family based immigrant visas have numerical limitations.

Visa Class	Description	Visa Limit
IR-1	Spouse of a U.S. Citizen	No
IR-2	Unmarried Child Under Age 21 of a U.S. Citizen	No
IR-3	Orphan adopted abroad by a U.S. citizen.	No
IR-4	Orphan to be adopted in the U.S. by a U.S. citizen	No
IR-5	Parent of a U.S. Citizen - spouse of parent not eligible	No
F1	Unmarried son/daughter of a U.S. citizen and their minor children	Yes
F2A	Spouses and minor children of LPRs.	Yes
F2B	Unmarried sons and daughters (age 21 and over) of LPRs	Yes
F3	Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and their minor children	Yes
F4	Siblings of U.S. citizens and their spouses and minor children	Yes